

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Process A process~~ for manufacturing a refractory material, characterized in that it comprises comprising the following steps:

a) deposit ~~depositing~~ on the surface of a substrate or in a mould ~~mold~~ a first dispersion containing comprising:

at least one metallic compound in powder form chosen selected from among the group consisting of transition metal-containing borides, carbides and borocarbides containing at least one transition metal, in powder form, and

a resin with a coke mass content equal to at least 30% after carbonization;

b) [[dry]] drying the resulting deposit dispersion deposited in step a);

c) optionally repeating steps a) and b) one or more times to form a dried deposit on the surface of the substrate or in the mold;

e) cross-link d) cross-linking the resin present in this the deposit;

d) carbonize e) carbonizing this cross-linked resin under an inert atmosphere;

e) cover f) covering the said deposit containing the cross-linked, carbonized resin with a second dispersion containing comprising:

silicon in powder form, and

a binder; and

f) heat g) heating, under an inert atmosphere, the covered deposit made produced, in step [[e]] f) to a temperature equal to at least the melting temperature of silicon, under an inert atmosphere;

steps a) and b) possibly being repeated one or more times before going onto step e).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the metallic compound in powder form is chosen selected from among the group consisting of hafnium borides, zirconium borides, titanium borides, hafnium carbides, zirconium carbides, and titanium borides and carbides.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to either claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that wherein the resin has a coke mass content equal to at least 45% after carbonization.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the resin is chosen from among phenolic resins and furanic resins.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the metallic compound in powder form present in the first dispersion is in the form of particles with an average diameter of less than or equal to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the binder present in the second dispersion is an aqueous solution of about 5% (m/m) of carboxymethylcellulose.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein, in step a), the substrate on which the first

dispersion is deposited is a part composed of graphite or a composite material comprising a matrix and fibers in carbon and/or silicon carbide.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the metallic compound in powder form is hafnium boride and ~~in that~~ the hafnium boride and resin contents of the first dispersion are such that at the end of step [[d]] e), the mass ratio between hafnium boride and carbon derived from carbonization varies from 18:1 to 1:1, taking account of the mass ratio of coke in the ~~said~~ resin after carbonization.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 8, characterized in that wherein the silicon content of the second dispersion is such that, after step [[e]] f), the molar ratio between the carbon derived from carbonization of the resin and the deposited silicon is equal to 1 or is only very slightly different from 1, taking account of the mass per unit area of the deposit made with this second dispersion.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of a~~ A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ for making coatings intended to protect a carbon-based part from corrosion at very high temperatures, comprising applying to the carbon-based part a refractory material made according to claim 1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): [[Use]] The process according to claim 10, characterized in that wherein the carbon-based part is composed of comprises graphite or a composite material comprising a carbon or silicon carbide matrix and carbon and / or silicon carbide fibers.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): Protective coating containing a metallic compound comprising hafnium boride and silicon carbide, characterized in that it can be obtained by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): Protective coating according to claim 12, characterized in that it contains 50 to 95% (m/m) of hafnium boride and 5 to 50% (m/m) of silicon carbide.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): Use of a protective coating according to claim 12 or claim 13 to protect a carbon-based part from corrosion at very high temperatures.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): Use according to claim 14, characterized in that the carbon-based part is composed of graphite or a composite material comprising a matrix and fibers in carbon and/or silicon carbide.